

Message Text

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ENDERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EEC

SUBJECT: AGRICULTURE IN THE MTNS

1. IT IS NOT EASY IN BRUSSELS TO UNDERSTAND THE CONVOLUTED DISCUSSION
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WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN GENEVA AND WASHINGTON ON THE
PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING AGRICULTURE IN THE MTNS. AS IN MOST
CASES WHERE THE OBJECTIVE IS TO PAPER OVER BASIC DIFFERENCES, WORDS
HAVE SPECIAL MEANING FOR THE PARTICIPANTS. DESPITE THIS
HANDICAP, OUR ANALYSIS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR
US POSITIONS FOLLOW.

2. THERE SEEM TO BE TWO PRIMARY ISSUES:

(A) THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE AGRICULTURE GROUP WITH
"FUNCTIONAL" GROUPS;

(B) THE PARTICULAR MANDATE AND JURISDICTION OF THE AGRICULTURAL
SUB-GROUPS ON GRAINS, DAIRY PRODUCTS AND MEAT.

3. ON POINT (A), WE WANT AGRICULTURE TO BE TREATED AS AN INTEGRAL
PART OF THE "FUNCTIONAL" NEGOTIATIONS AND THE EC WANTS IT TO BE
ENTIRELY SEPARATE. THE TRICK IS TO GET OVER THIS BASIC
DIFFERENCE BY ALLOWING DISCUSSIONS TO GO ON IN BOTH
CHANNELS, LEAVING OPEN FOR LATER FIGHTING WHERE THE FINAL
CONCLUSIONS ARE REACHED. IT SEEMS THAT THE TALKS IN
GENEVA HAVE GOTTEN CLOSER TO A SOLUTION OF THIS ISSUE. IF
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PAGE 02 EC BRU 08779 011550Z

THE EC BALKS AT HAVING THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN " FUNCTIONAL "

GROUPS AND "AGRICULTURE" GROUP CONSIDERED JOINTLY, THEY COULD BE TAKEN UP IN THE TNC OR THE QUESTION EXPLICITLY LEFT OPEN FOR LATER DECISION. IN OTHER WORDS, WAIT UNTIL THE "DIFFERENCES" EMERGE BEFORE TRYING TO DECIDE THE PROCEDURE FOR DEALING WITH THEM.

4. ON POINT (B), THE EC SEEMS TO BE HUNG UP ON ITS MANDATE FOR COMMODITY AGREEMENTS ON GRAINS AND DAIRY PRODUCTS. THEREFORE THEY HAVE TO INSIST THAT ALL ELEMENTS OF TRADE RELATING TO THESE COMMODITIES CAN BE DISCUSSED ONLY IN THE AGRICULTURAL SUB-GROUPS. SINCE QRS AFFECTING MEAT, GRAINS AND DAIRY PRODUCTS DON'T HAVE MUCH SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE US (EXCEPT PERHAPS OUR OWN DAIRY QRS), IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE WE WOULD BE GIVING UP A LOT IF WE DROPPED OUR INSISTENCE ON BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON THESE QRS. (IF THE JAPANESE OR OTHERS ARE WILLING TO HAVE BILATERALS, THAT SHOULD BE PROVIDED FOR.) AND WE HAVE ALREADY AGREED THAT THE PRODUCT SUB-GROUPS THEMSELVES WOULD BE THE CUS OF DISCUSSION OF ALL ELEMENTS RELATING TO THOSE PRODUCTS. THE FUNCTIONAL GROUPS COULD BE INFORMED OF THE RESULTS OF THESE DISCUSSIONS, BUT WE COULD LEAVE OPEN THE QUESTION OF HOW ANY DIFFERENCES IN APPROACH WOULD BE INTEGRATED INTO THE FINAL DECISION-MAKING PROCESS.
GREENWALD

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